

REMARKS

The present application, which was filed on 28 August 2003, is a continuation of U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/068,424, which was filed 7 February 2002. A Preliminary Amendment was filed with the present application.

The Preliminary Amendment requested the cancellation of claims 1-20 and the addition of claims 21-38. In addition, the Preliminary Amendment requested changes to the Drawings and to the Specification.

The pending Office Action mailed on 11 August 2004 contained rejections for claims 1-20. Claims 21-38 were not considered in the pending Office Action.

Pursuant to a telephone conference with the Examiner, it was determined that the Examiner did not consider the timely filed Preliminary Amendment. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the Claims 21-38 filed in the Preliminary Amendment.

In addition, Applicant requests the Examiner add and consider new Claims 39-69, filed herewith.

CONCLUSION

The application now has 49 total claims (Claims 21-69), 14 of which are independent claims. Therefore, enclosed is our check in the amount of \$745.00 to cover the \$484.00 fee for 11 independent claims in excess of three, and the \$261.00 fee for 29 claims in excess of twenty. No additional fees are deemed to be necessary; however, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that are necessary, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **502806**.

Respectfully submitted,

10/22/04
Date

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